(c) and (d) Export Promotion Council under Department of Commerce has already initiated a study under Market Access Initiative Scheme to promote Indian granite, marble and other stones to US market. The study would also identify the strategy to promote Indian marble from Rajasthan area too. In the next phase, selected exporters would be requested to participate in the trade exhibitions and buyers sellers meets in USA. This market effort is expected to continue for some time and as a result marble export from Rajasthan will get a boost.

Closure of industrial units

466. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of registered industrial units in the country during the last five years along with details of the total strength of labour in these units for these periods, State-wise and period-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is an increasing trend in closing down of industrial units; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor along with the number of workers affected by this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

New industries in North-Eastern Region

467. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of medium-size industries which are in existence at present in the North-Eastern States, State-wise;

(b) whether Government have any plan to set up new industrial plants/medium-size factories;

(c) if so, the details of such schemes/plans which are under consideration; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) to (d) Government announced a New North-East Industrial Policy on 24th December, 1997 for promoting industrialization in North Eastern Region. Under this Policy, various concessions have been allowed to industrial units in North-Eastern Region *e.g.* development of industrial infrastructure, subsidies under various schemes, excise and income-tax exemption for a period of 10 years etc. A financial institution namely North-East Development Financial Corporation (NEDFC) was also designated as the nodal disbursing agency under the Scheme.

The impact of this policy on industrialization in North Eastern Region (NER) has been encouraging as seen from the number of industrial units set up (large and medium-sized) and the subsidies disbursed under the various subsidy schemes. Details are given in Statement I and II (*See* below).

Under the policy, there is no provision for Government investment/ funding in public sector. Government provides facilities only to encourage private entrepreneurs to set up industries. The initiative for setting up of industries rests with the private entrepreneurs.

Statement –I

List of project (medium and large) after NEIP

State	No. of Units	Capital Formation (Rs. in crore)	Employment
Assam	400	874	30664
Meghalaya	32	101	2595
Arunachal Pradesh	23	12	364
Nagaland	1	10	140
Manipur	Nil	—	—
Mizoram	Nil	—	—
NER Total	461	997	33763

Statement-II

Details of Subsidy disbursement by NEDFC under the various schemes as on 31.10.2002

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Transport Subsidy Scheme State			Capital Investment Subsidy			Interest Subsidy		
		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	1.98	2.52	0	0	0	0.	0	0
2.	Assam	16.69	17.97	17.83	0	3.89	1.5	0	0.05	0.24
3.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.	Meghalaya	2.62	10.13	10.4	0	0	0.87	0	0.2	0.19
5.	Mizoram	0	4.35	4.28	0	0	0	0	0	0
6.	Nagaland	0	5.65	5.91	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Tripura	0.69	0.19	1.07	0.26	0.02	0.47	0	0	0.01
	TOTAL	20.00	40.27	44.01	0.26	3.91	2.84	0	0.25	0.431